

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MCT-01 SY-05

IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5783

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISTANBUL AND INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: (A) STATE 212490; (B) LONDON 13473

1. STATUS OF SECURITY AT BRITISH AIRPORTS (PARA. 1 REF-TEL) WAS DISCUSSED WITH DEPT. OF TRADE OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR AVIATION SECURITY. UK HAS RATIFIED 1970 HAGUE AND 1971 MONTREAL CONVENTIONS AS WELL AS TOKYO CONVENTION.

2. IN THE ESTIMATION OF EMBASSY OFFICERS, SECURITY AT LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT, THROUGH WHICH THE BULK OF SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OPERATE, IS GOOD. ALL PASSENGERS AND CARRY-ON BAGGAGE ARE SCREENED BEFORE THE PASSENGER BOARDS THE AIRCRAFT. ALL PASSENGERS MUST PASS THROUGH A MAGNETOMETER AND HAND BAGGAGE IS SEARCHED BY ATTENDANTS. AFTER SCREENING, PASSENGERS AND THEIR HAND BAGGAGE ARE SEPARATED FROM UNSCREENED PERSONS IN LOUNGES SEALED OFF FROM THE PUBLIC WHILE THEY AWAIT BOARDING OF FLIGHT. THIS SCREENING SYSTEM HAS BEEN EXTENDED RECENTLY TO UK AIR CARRIERS' CHARTER PASSENGERS AT GATWICK AIRPORT WHICH HANDLES MOST INTERNATIONAL CHARTER FLIGHTS (REF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(B)). UK SECURITY OFFICIALS CONSIDER THAT UNSCREENED

CHARTER FLIGHTS LEFT A LOOP-HOLE IN THE SECURITY SYSTEM WHICH, CONSIDERING THE TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES APPLIED TO SCHEDULED FLIGHTS, PRESENTED AN INCREASINGLY TEMPTING TARGET FOR POTENTIAL HIJACKERS. TO DATE, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SCREEN PASSENGERS OF CHARTER FLIGHTS OTHER THAN THOSE OPERATED BY UK AIR CARRIERS.

3. SECURITY OF TRANSIT PASSENGERS: PASSENGERS, ARRIVING, DEPARTING AND TRANSIT, CAN MINGLE FREELY IN WALKWAYS AND LOUNGES OF TERMINALS AT HEATHROW. HOWEVER, ONLY PASSENGERS, AIRPORT EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS WITH PROPER IDENTIFICATION ARE ADMITTED TO THE PASSENGER AREA OF THE AIRPORT. AT BOARDING AND DISEMBARKATION POINTS, PASSENGERS ALREADY SCREENED WHO ARE PREPARING TO BOARD A FLIGHT (AS NOTED ABOVE) ARE SEPARATED FROM ARRIVING PASSENGERS WHO MAY BE USING THE SAME LOADING/UNLOADING GATE AND ALL OTHER UNSCREENED PERSONS. SOME TRANSIT PASSENGERS MOVING FROM ONE AIRCRAFT TO ANOTHER THROUGH A TERMINAL'S CORRIDORS OR BETWEEN TERMINALS 1, 2 AND 3 MINGLE WITH AS YET UNSCREENED DEPARTING PASSENGERS. HOWEVER, SUCH TRANSIT PASSENGERS OR ANY OTHERS WHO HAVE LEFT A SCREENED AREA ARE REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH THE SAME PREBOARDING SCREENING ON ARRIVAL AT THE LOADING GATE OF THEIR ONWARD FLIGHTS AS PASSENGERS ORIGINATING THEIR FLIGHTS AT HEATHROW. IN TERMINAL 2 AT HEATHROW, TRANSIT PASSENGERS CHANGING FLIGHTS WITHIN THAT TERMINAL ARE PHYSICALLY SEPARATED FROM UNSCREENED PASSENGERS BY BARRIERS. IN VIEW OF THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED ABOVE, WHICH ALSO ARE APPLIED AT OTHER UK AIRPORTS, UK AVIATION SECURITY OFFICERS CONSIDER THAT SECURITY OF TRANSIT PASSENGERS AT UK AIRPORTS IS SATISFACTORY.

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